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1.

Georg Dertinger, the East German Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that he had not expected a war so soon, and that he had believed it would be at least five years before war came. He could not understand how the Soviet Union could dare start a war at this point. It is obvious, he said, that the North Koreans were the aggressors in the present campaign, in view of their initial successes; but he recalled that in the recent war the Allies suffered many setbacks at first and yet were able to win the victory.

2. Dertinger went on to say that the Korean war is a "pre-view" of what is going to happen in Germany. He manifested great pleasure at the thought of the downfall of Chancellor Adenauer. When the opinion was expressed that German troops will be sent to support the North Koreans, Dertinger replied, "That has already been laid on."

3. Dertinger received his first instructions in the Korean affair from the SED Politburo; subsequently his deputy, Anton Ackermann, informed him that he was to take no stand officially on Korea. The latter order was confirmed by Ambassador Pushkin

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Comment: Dertinger seemed to be more concerned about his own tenure in office as Foreign Minister than about the basic principles involved in the conflict. Apparently he felt that, whether or not the Soviet action is successful, his own future looks less promising if there should be a full-scale war.

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